Takelma language

Takelma /tə ˈkɛlmə/[2] was the language spoken by the Latgawa and Takelma people and Cow Creek band of Upper Umpqua. It was first extensively described by Edward Sapir in his graduate thesis, *The Takelma Language of Southwestern Oregon.*[3] The last fluent speaker of Takelma, with whom Sapir worked while writing about the language, was Frances Johnson (Gwísgwashān). A dictionary from English to Takelma is currently being created in the hopes it can be revived. [4]

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Dialects

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- <u>Latgawa</u> dialect, spoken in southwestern Oregon along the upper Roque River
- Lowland (<u>Takelma</u>) dialect, spoken in southwestern
 Oregon in the <u>Rogue Valley</u>

There was possibly a Cow Creek dialect spoken in southwestern Oregon along the South Umpqua River, Myrtle Creek, and Cow Creek.^[5]

	Takelma			
Taakelmà ʔn				
Native to	United States			
Region	Oregon, Rogue Valley along the middle course of the Rogue River			
Ethnicity	Takelma, Latgawa, Cow Creek band of Upper Umpqua			
Extinct	1934, with the death of Frances Johnson			
Language	Penutian?			
family	Takelma			
Language codes				
ISO 639-3	tkm			
Glottolog	take1257 (http://glot tolog.org/resource/la nguoid/id/take1257) ^[1]			
The state of the s				
languages t	outh), with the Kalapuyan o the north			

Genealogical relations

Takelma is commonly included in the controversial $\underline{Penutian}$ macro-family, as first suggested by \underline{Edward} \underline{Sapir} . [6]

Within Penutian, Takelma has been grouped together with the <u>Kalapuyan languages</u> in a "<u>Takelma-Kalapuyan</u>" or "Takelman" language family. [7][8][9][10] However, an unpublished paper by Tarpent & Kendall (1998)^[11] finds this relationship to be unfounded because of the extremely different morphological structures of Takelma and Kalapuyan. DeLancey follows this position.

Phonology

Consonants

The consonant phonemes as described by Sapir are:^[3]

		Labial	Alv	eolar	Deletel		/elar	Glottal
		Labial	plain	sibilant	<u>Palatal</u>	plain	labialized	
Nasal		m	n					
	plain	р	t			k	kw	?
Stop/Afficate	aspirated	p ^h	th			k ^h	k ^{w h}	
	ejective	p′	t'	ts'		k'	k′w	
Fricative			(1)	S		х		h
Approximant			I		j		W	

Vowels

The vowel system of the Takelma language comprises the six vowels /a e i o u \u2247/, as well as their lengthened counterparts /a \u2212 e \u2211 i \u2212 o \u2212 u \u2212 \u2212/.

Tones

Three tones are noted as $/\dot{v}/$, $/\dot{v}/$, and /v/. [12]

Grammar

Takelma like many Native American languages is <u>polysynthetic</u> meaning that you can link together many different morphemes to form a word. Therefore one single word can often contain a lot of information that in English would be portrayed in a full sentence. This is mainly done by adding affixes to verbs.

Tense

Takelma has 6 different tenses listed below with the first (aorist) being the basic tense which is equivalent to the immediate future, present, and past.

- 1. Aorist
- 2. Potential
- 3. Future
- 4. Inferential

- 5. Present Imperative
- 6. Future Imperative

Person and possession

In Takelma, possession is marked by a set of affixes. Most of them are suffixes but there is one prefix. Below is a table of the four declensional sets.

	1 sg.	2 sg.	3 sg/pl	1 pl.	2 Pl. reflexive	3 sg. reflexive	3 pl.
1	wi-	`-?t ^h	-(x)	-tam	-?tʰpan	-(x)ak ^w a	-(x)ak⊮an
II	-t/thekh	-t/the?	-t/t ^h	-tam	-t/tʰapaʔn	-t/tʰakʷa	-t/tʰakʷan
Ш	´-tʰkʰ	`-?t ^h	`-(th)	-tam	`-?thpan	`-tʰkʷa	`-tʰkʷan
IV	-té:	-ta?	`-ta	-tam	tapa?n or `-?tʰpan	`-tʰkʷa or `-takʷa	`-takwan or `-tʰkwan

Set I is only ever used with terms of kinship. For example:

Wi-wá:	wà:-?tʰ	wi:-xa
'my younger brother'	'your younger brother'	'his younger brother'

Set II is used with bare stems or stems having the formant. For example:

-x:hè:l	hè:l-tʰekʰ	hè:I-tʰa
'song'	'my song'	'his song'

tàkax-tek ^h	tàkax-ta	
'my head'	'his head'	

Alternations between –t and –t ^h in set II and set IV is regular and predictable.

Set III is used with stems having other formants. For example:

xá:n	xa:lám-tʰkʰ	xa:lám
'urine'	'my urine'	'his urine'

tán	taná-tʰkʰ	taná
'rock'	'my rock'	'his rock'

p'á:-n	p'á:n-tʰkʰ	p'á:n-tʰ
'liver'	'my liver'	'his liver'

Set IV is used in locative constructions. For example:

ha-wili-té 'in my house'

versus

wili-thkh

'my house'

xa:-kwel-té

'between my legs'

versus

kwé:lx-tekh 'my legs'

wa-té 'to me'

[13]

[14]

Object markers

Takelma has a complex system of verbal pronominal suffixes and is also accompanied by the loss of case markers on nouns. This represents a complete shift to full head marking. So far the only actual examples I have found are in the 3rd person object marker in Takelma, which is the suffix $-k^h$ wa which is realized on the verb. However the distribution of $-k^h$ wa is very restricted.

Here is the full set of object markers:

Object Markers	Singular	Plural
1st	-xi	-am
2nd	-pi	-amp ^h
3rd	Ø/-kʰwa	Ø/-kʰwa

For the 1st and 2nd person objects overt marking is required with clear difference between singular and plural. For 3rd person there is no difference between singular and plural and there is also alternation between the suffix –k^hwa and zero suffix.

The zero variant occurs with animates as well as inanimate, covert pronouns, and overt nominals.

However –k^h wa occurs in three distinct environments. First, when the subject is also 3rd person. Second, it is always used when the object is higher in animacy than the subject. This means that the object refers to a human also a mythic animal that is thought of as a human being. The third situation is when the subject and object are of equal animacy but the object outranks the subject in topicality.^[15]

Words

English
one
two
three
four
five
six
seven
eight
nine
ten

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